

PUPP'S
195 Maple Ave.
at Prince Charles Drive,
Welland

Ribbon cutting
Mayor's wife helps christen vessel
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Clinging to life
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Hello high school
Students transition to Grade 9
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Pedalling Peyton
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Rates need
lowering?

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I'M THERE

INPORTNEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 35 VOLUME 15

For news updated daily see www.inportnews.ca

■ **KICK OFF:** Starts Saturday ■ **SHIPPING:** Algoma Mariner christened in Port Colborne

Marshville Festival returns

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Call it a full on 1800s assault for the senses. Barbara Henderson, advertising co-ordinator for the Marshville Heritage Festival, can't wait for her favourite time of Wainfleet's signature event.

"You assault your senses by the unusual sights of what it was like back then, smelling the wood fire and the fresh baked bread, hearing the blacksmiths work," she said. "I really like the sensual assault with all these things coming at you."

see **MARSHVILLE** | page 2

Efficiency on the Great Lakes



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Mayor Vance Badawey, chief engineer David Cooke, Capt. Robert Loveless and chief engineer Todd Walters, Lisa Badawey and Greg Wight, president and chief executive officer of Algoma Central Corp. stand in front of the newly-christened MV Algoma Mariner on Thursday. The vessel's port of registry is Port Colborne.

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The Algoma Mariner can carry more cargo at faster speeds across the Great Lakes and eastern seaboard and do it in a much more fuel-efficient and environmentally-friendly manner, says Algoma Central Corp. president and chief executive officer Greg Wight.

Wight spoke under a tent set up at Snider Dock Services last Thursday alongside the Welland Canal, and the new ship, in front of a couple hundred people from Algoma, St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. and City of Port Colborne staff.

The 225.56-metre-long ship was christened during a ceremony that was a significant day for the

Canadian company.

"It's significant for a number of reasons. We're welcoming to our fleet a completely new Canadian-flagged dry bulk ship. It's the first we've added to our fleet since 1983 and the first new vessel for the entire industry since 1985," Wight said.

"In addition to the Mariner, we've contracted for six new Equinox-class vessels for the Great Lakes and our partners at the Canadian Wheat Board have contracted for two as well."

The two wheat board vessels, said Wight, will be managed and crewed by Algoma. The new vessels are expected to start arriving in the Great Lakes in 2013.

see **SHIPPING** | page 2

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■ SHIPPING

Mariner produces considerably less emissions

FROM PAGE 1

"With the delivery of the Algamma last year, the Mariner and the soon to be (more efficient) Equinox-class vessels, Algamma will most and operate the most modern and environmentally-efficient fleet in the entire Great Lakes system."

Wight said the Mariner has 60% fewer emissions than the oldest steamships operating on the Great Lakes and 40% fewer than the current motor vessels operating.

"In addition, the new ships are designed to accommodate engine-exhaust gas scrubbers to further reduce emissions and accommodate ballast-water treatment systems."

The changes allow the company to save money and maintain its leadership in the domestic dry bulk transportation sector of the marine industry, and keep people

employed Wight said.

People who attended the christening ceremony heard the Algamma Mariner wasn't originally going to be in the Algamma fleet. The vessel had been slated for Upper Lakes Shipping originally and was to be jointly-operated. But with the purchase of that shipping company by Algamma, it is now 100% owned by the St. Catharines-based company.

"It's all Upper Lake crews on the ship," Wight said as he welcomed them to the fleet and company.

Wight said Algamma wanted to hold the christening ceremony for the vessels, which was built at Chengdi Shipyard in China and delivered on May 31 of this year — in Port Colborne for two reasons.

"We've had a long association with the city. In 1974, we purchased the former Herb Fraser and Associates, which

is now known as Fraser Marine and Industrial, the largest top-side ship repair company. In 1979, one of our ships was named Algoport in honour of Port Colborne."

The Algoport was retired and was on its way to China to have a new forebody attached to it, but the vessel broke apart and sank in the South China Sea.

"We had to develop a plan (for the forebody)."

Algamma and DeltaMarin, designers of the new Equinox-class vessels, came up with a completely new aft end for the forebody using the design parameters of the Equinox-class vessels. The vessel that came together from the forebody already built and the new state-of-the-art aft end was the Algamma Mariner.

"We decided to honour the old Algoport by not resigning the name, kind of like retiring a hockey jersey, and

instead chose the city of Port Colborne as the port of registry for the Algamma Mariner."

The vessel, Wight said, will sail the Great Lakes and eastern seaboard with Port Colborne painted on its aft.

Mayor Vance Badawey said it was a pleasure to be at the ceremony on behalf of both the city and Niagara Region to express congratulations to Algamma for introducing its new maximum seaway size, coastal class self-loader to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway system.

"We are honoured and truly appreciate that Algamma has chosen the city as her port of registry. This confirms the relationship between Algamma, the city and region. Algamma owns Fraser's... and our community has long been a major destination for the winter lay-up of vessels and the associated vessel maintenance," said Badawey.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Crew members aboard Algamma Central Corp's MV Algamma Mariner watch as a bottle of champagne hits the side of the starboard bow to officially christen the vessel on Thursday. The vessel's port of registry is Port Colborne and was christened by Lisa Badawey during a ceremony at Snider Dock Services.

■ MARSHVILLE

Festival offers 'something that everybody can enjoy'

FROM PAGE 1

The 23rd annual Marshville Heritage Festival begins the Saturday morning. Sunday it's open from 11 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. and Monday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost for adults and children aged 10 and up is \$6. Children under 10 are free and on Saturday only, seniors are \$5.

"I really believe that there

is something that everybody can enjoy, from the youngest child to the oldest senior that chooses to come, from watching the hay exhibits to the children's entertainment," she said.

The festival normally attracts nearly 30,000 people to discover life in the 1800s through a log cabin, several blacksmithery, horse-drawn buggies,

weaving, pottery making, bread tasting and plenty of food.

The festival has more than 130 juried artisans showing proficiency in



Henderson

such areas as photography, jewelry, wooden games, clothing and Halloween costumes for the children.

There will be live entertainment with bands including The Old Time Fiddlers, who play a free concert at the new gazebo on the Sunday at 6:30 p.m. and The Torchmen Quartet. There will be horse and wagon rides, and

authentic Amish quilt raffle off.

There will also be an antique car show held on the Saturday and the British Car and Vintage Motorcycle Club will have a show.

"We have 400 volunteers and the ability to attract 30,000 people in the course of one weekend, that's huge. It's our showcase event and something we are

very proud of," Henderson said.

"I think its important we keep our traditions alive," Henderson said. "Our young people are so far removed from that time and they lived and survived while working with what teens consider as very outdated technology."

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portraits

■ **CHRISTENING:** 'The attachment I will personally have with this vessel will be everlasting,' says Lisa Badawey

Bubbly about the Algoma Mariner

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — With the push of a button, a champagne bottle smashed into the bow of Algoma Central Corp.'s newest vessel, the Algoma Mariner, christening the ship and welcoming it to the fleet and Great Lakes.

Pushing that button was Port Colborne's Lisa Badawey, who was asked to take part in the ceremony.

"It was a great day," said the wife of Mayor Vance Badawey after the ceremony.

She said Algoma president and chief executive officer Greg Wight called her husband and said the Algoma Mariner was going to be christened in Port Colborne and asked him if she would be willing to christen the new vessel.

"Vance called me right away and then Algoma contacted me. I was very surprised to be asked to christen a boat ... it's a great honour and I feel very privileged."

Badawey said she prefers to remain behind the scenes most times, but said it was "really nice to get out and represent the community, the city and the business."

She works in the office at George Badawey Marine Ltd. with her husband, when he's not performing his job as mayor.

"The act of christening a vessel at its naming is meant to bring luck and safety to the vessel and those on it. The attachment I will personally have with this vessel will be everlasting — but more importantly is the attachment our community will have with her," she said during the ceremony.

After she spoke those words, she and Wight headed to a second podium set up at Snider Dock Services, where the vessel was tied up, to perform the christening.

She pushed a button which released a champagne bottle, which had been set up on a pole over the starboard side of the vessel, sending into the steel hull, causing it to break into many pieces. The smell of champagne hung in the air as the couple hundred or so watching the ceremony applauded.

"To the officers and crew who will bring this vessel to life, I wish you smooth sailing, you are a symbol of this industry's future. To the ship I name you the MV Algoma Mariner. May God guard you and guide you and keep safe all those who sail with you."

After the ceremony, Badawey's two daughters, Logan, 15, and Jordan, 13, presented her with flowers and were in turn presented a gift from Wight.

"My daughters got two picture frames that were engraved on the back," said Badawey, adding the frames will be filled with a family photo taken by Algoma at the ceremony.

She said her daughters hadn't realized the importance of the day at first and were overwhelmed.

Wight presented her with gifts as well. She received a silver plate with an engraving on it commemorating the day and she also had a second gift.

Though there wasn't much left of it, Badawey was given the champagne bottle and the ribbon tied around the top of it.

"It's a really nice keepsake," she said.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

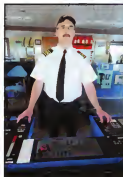


Algoma Central Corp. president and chief executive officer Greg Wight, left, Lisa Badawey, centre, and Mayor Vance Badawey, right, pose for a photo in front of the MV Algoma Mariner on Thursday. The vessel's port of registry is Port Colborne and was christened by Lisa Badawey during a ceremony at Snider Dock Services.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photos
LEFT: Capt. Robert Loveless talks about the state-of-the-art bridge onboard the newly-christened MV Algoma Mariner on Thursday. The vessel can be controlled from three positions on the bridge, which has back-up systems for every control.

RIGHT: Loveless mans the controls of the newly-christened MV Algoma Mariner on Thursday. The vessel's port of registry is Port Colborne.



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ourview

New ship christened

Last week, Algoma Central Corp. had the newest ship in its fleet christened in Port Colborne.

The MV *Algoma Mariner* was christened by Lisa Badway during a ceremony alongside the Welland Canal at Snider Dock Services. The vessel, built in China, carries the city's name on the aft end as well.

While the *Algoma Mariner* is the newest ship on the Great Lakes, it certainly won't be the last, said Algoma's Greg Wight, president and CEO.

Wight said the *Mariner* has commissioned six new vessels, called Equinox-class vessels, for Great Lakes and east coast service.

While the *Mariner* is not a full Equinox-class vessel, its aft-end was designed along those lines.

Wight said the *Mariner* has 60% fewer emissions than the oldest steamships operating on the Great Lakes and 40% fewer than the current motor vessels operating.

"In addition, the new ships are designed to accommodate engine-exhaust gas scrubbers to further reduce emissions and accommodate ballast water treatment systems," he said.

The marine industry claims to be the greenest mode of transportation around and with the arrival of Algoma's new ships, sometime in 2013, that claim will carry more weight.

Wight said, "Algoma will own and operate the most modern and environmentally-efficient fleet in the entire Great Lakes system."

While we applaud the company for bringing more efficient ships into the Great Lakes, the announcement and last week's christening signal something else to us.

It is that Algoma has confidence in the marine industry and that customers still want and need to use vessels to move goods around the Great Lakes and world.

A company doesn't commission six new ships without having great confidence in the industry.

For a city like Port Colborne, it means companies like Fraser Marine and Industrial, Allied Marine, West Pier and George Badaway Marine Ltd., among others, will still supply services and goods to the new ships.

It means people stay employed and these days, we need the jobs.

HEAD TO WINFLEET THIS WEEKEND

The last long weekend of the summer is upon us and that means one thing — time for *Marshallville Heritage Festival*.

In its 23rd year, the festival normally attracts nearly 30,000 people who discover what life in *Marshallville* was like in the 1900s. They do that by going through a log cabin, sawmill, black smith shop, and seeing horse-drawn buggies, weaving, rope-making, such areas as photography, jewelry, wooden games, clothing and Halloween costumes for the children.

It takes 400 volunteers to help run the festival and each and everyone one of them, and the organizers, deserve a great big thanks for the effort they put into the festival to make it a success.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

INTERIM PASTOR GARY TOMIUCK
Winifield Congregational Christian Church

For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16)

There is bad news and good news in this scripture. The bad news is that not believing in God's ultimate sacrifice of his son on our behalf results in perishing in our sins and suffering the eternal consequences without him forever in Hell.

The good news is that believing in God's son and receiving his free gift of salvation results in eternal life which entails joy, bliss, and glory forever in Heaven.

Your will must align with Gods and with God given faith you can have a personal encounter with God of the closest kind. This is solely between you and the Lord.

You can't have a hand me down conversion or a second hand faith. No one is saved and en-masse. It's more like going through a tunnel system one click at a time. This is salvation which needs receiving Christ as the saviour of your life. Then following conversion is sanctification which is making Christ the Lord of your life.

This certainly includes discipline. Some have called this a crises and a process and there is certainly a difference but Jesus must be Lord of all or he is not Lord at all.

readers' views

Interesting take

Re: Ground breaks for new facility
It is an interesting take on the representatives at the ceremony and their reported comments.

There was a emphasis that Niagara Region will benefit by the new facility gear and it is probable provided the region picks up on most of the costs of the inevitable cost overruns, and reduces the burden on the Port ratepayers.

Anecdotal evidence exists that of the 400 odd Motor Hockey registration, 100 are from Welland, which is fine. Port residents are generous people (just talk to Port Cares) and welcome their neighbours, except that other anecdotal reviews suggests that the main thrust for registering in the Port is the low rates. When the rates go up (and the CAO has said they will) there is talk that most Wellandlers will go back to lake in Welland onto the facilities there are updated ...

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er, we can complete the life in him

In God's army Christians will receive hurts, scars and wounds — be they mental, physical, or spiritual. Jesus even showed his own wounds to the disciples. And who was a greater soldier, wrestler or an abile than him who ran the perfect race.

When we run that race it may at times feel like we are entering the Special Olympics. Physically or mentally we struggle, stumble and fall yet we push ahead in wheelchairs, walkers and crutches. Some of us have just started this race while others are near the last lap before the Lord will call them home.

When I was a young boy I had leg perth (a degenerative bone disease) and wore a brace on my leg. Like Jacob I also walked with a limp (Gen. 32:31). Daily I was reminded of my limitations but thankfully God has healed me and today I no longer need a brace and don't walk with a limp at all. I will remember during one of those early days when my father and mother took that brace off my leg. They wanted to see if I could walk without it. I walked a few feet then I stumbled but I kept going a little further each time. Do you know what kept me going? The cheers of encouragement of my parents who shouted "Come on son you can do it!" Sometimes they would bend down and hold out a simple quarter and watch eagerly to see if I could walk to them and get it from their hands. Then one day after many tries and failures I walked that full length of our living room floor (20 feet)

and made it.

Then I collapsed into the open arms of my father who hugged me, my mother smiling appreciatively. My parents were so proud of me. Multiply that by infinity. When life gets difficult and seems overwhelming and you feel like giving up your heavenly father is shouting to you "Come on my son, my daughter, you can do it!" By my amazing and persevering grace you will make it all the way home and as you break through that tape at the end of the finishing line your heavenly father will bend down sweep you into his strong arms and hug and kiss you over and over again. He says "Welcome home — well done my son, my daughter — well done my good and faithful servant enter into the joy of the Lord" and he will give you not a shiny silver quarter but the incorruptible crown of life that will never spoil perish or fade.

God will give you many precious rewards but the greatest of all the Lord gives you himself. He is the greatest reward, the greatest treasure and none can be compared to him. This is the end of life's journey this is truly coming home.

In the meantime we run, we persevere and we complete the race first in him. At times hobbling, stumbling and limping but enduring until the very end. "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us before us looking to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." (Hebrews 12:1).

gas prices are not going to get cheaper any time soon. The same applies for those hockey fans that came into the Port from as far afield as Pelham because of Port's lower rates.

There are many Port Colborne young parents who simply cannot afford the costs of outfitting their kids with hockey gear and just instead to enroll them in soccer. With some imagination the Port's council (which seems quite comfortable in overlooking a \$10 million dollar windfall) could have opted for a dual use facility for the smaller arena. Six level indoor soccer is a great sport well suited to the concept of health and wellness. It is, moreover, affordable to more young parents than hockey. As a spectator sport the skills of soccer players are without equal and with all the year round facilities in the Port, local Port Colborne soccer talent could eventually find itself on the world stage since continuous practise makes for perfection.

Cost overruns for this facility are inevitable. Since the region will benefit from the new centre, it is only proper that the region picks up the majority of these costs relieving the burden on the Port ratepayers. David Barrick is your regional councillor ... phone and e-mail him, telling him that this is what you expect the region to do for Port Colborne.

John Mitchell
Port Colborne

Lots of windy propaganda

I do wish newspapers wouldn't print stories as though they are credible and factual reports without ever questioning the sources.

A story in *The Tribune* headlined public meetings online windmill projects is full of the usual misinformation.

continued on page 5

■ readers' views

FROM PAGE 4

The wind energy industry claims regarding how much power they can generate are based on the wind machine's rated capacity. The industry itself admits the best they can expect is 30% efficiency and they are the ones selling this 'moonshine'. All factual studies worldwide indicate an overall efficiency of 20% is good. Denmark has now banned more on-shore wind turbines and after 20 years wind only ever supplied 20% of the country's energy needs, and that usually when demand was zero.

Niagara Region Wind Corp. claims it can supply power for 60,000 homes yet does not have any factual proof to confirm this, only specifications from the manufacturers.

And, of course, when the wind doesn't blow the claimed 230MW of power won't even power a single home.

I don't know about you, but to read... with wind mills clustered in small families of four or five, spread

over vast distances... made me to puke. It is so misleading it deserves comment.

Families? Windmills have babies that grow up to be big wind mills?

As for the distance when I occasionally drive to Toronto for some obscure reason I always look across the lake to see just how soon I can spot the CN tower.

You probably do the same.

On a clear day you can spot it as soon as you go over the Burlington Skyway.

Yet 40 or 50 of these monsters, not 'wind mills', but each a separate and enormous industrial power plant, are somehow going to blend seamlessly into the Wainfleet landscape?

I don't know why Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn should be surprised at the 'confusion' caused by the name Niagara Region Wind Corp.

All part of the plan to make the company name legitimate.

NIERC is counting on enormous profits, every cent of which

the provincial government are guaranteeing with your tax dollars. They want a legitimacy that should go with good government.

And their claim to want public input and concern for our

views? How long ago did anyone who read that story first hear the name Niagara Region Wind Corp.? For me it was only in 2011. I have e-mailed from them admitting they have been publicly working in our

communities since 2006. Doesn't that make you feel all warm and fuzzy about their claims of concern for the public good?

Andrew Watts
Wainfleet

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ALONG THE LAKESHORE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Port Colborne Historical Society will meet at 7 p.m. at Port Colborne Retirement Home. Guest speaker Mohawk Sculptor Doug Maracle will speak on Native culture as reflected in his art. All welcome. Call 905-835-2291 for more information.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Niagara Region Public Health, Ontario Early Years Centres and St. John's Ambulance have prepared a free education class to teach parents and caregivers how to safely install and use their own child car seats. Starts at 1:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Please visit the Ontario Early Years Centre, Port

Cares, 92 Charlotte St., Port Colborne or call 905-834-9071 ext. 238 or e-mail oeyc-pc@portcares.on.ca for more information.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

FALL FEST at St. John's Lutheran Church, 3837 Netherby Rd., Snyder, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Apple pressing on site - apple cider, pumpkins, squash, cornstalks, fresh baked pies, and join us for a bowl of homemade soup, bun, tea or coffee. Our funds will generously be matched by Faithlife Financial

AT THE PORT COLBORNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wii Bowling for Seniors on the third Wednesday of the each month, September to June from 1:30-3:30 p.m. A fun, low-impact exercise, and a little friendly competition. Free admission. Free refreshments.

Films for Seniors, presented on the first Wednesday of the month, September to June, at 1:30 p.m. Free admission. Free refreshments.

Knitting Classes Tuesday evenings 7 to 9 p.m., from Sept. 13th to Nov. 22nd and Thursdays 11am to 1pm, from Sept. 15th to Nov. 24th with instructor Vicki Fretz. For more information on the Knitting Club schedule of classes or to join the Knitters' Club, call Vicki at 905-835-5373.

Rise and Shine Yoga Classes Wednesday mornings 9:30-11 a.m. from Sept. 14th to Nov. 2nd. Hatha Yoga with instructor Heather Jones of Santosa Studio for Yoga and Healing. All levels. \$95, for 8 weeks, or \$15, drop in. For more information or to register for classes, call Heather at 905-932-6061 or visit www.planetlovercreations.com

One-on-One Computer Lessons. Saturday mornings at the Library. \$10.00 per person per one-hour lesson. Pre-registration required. Lessons geared toward your interests. Topics include: email, Facebook, Twitter, blogging, creating simple websites, and more.... Call the Library at 905-834-6512 for an appointment.

ART IN THE ATRIUM: "Pictures at an Exhibition", paintings by George Sanders. On display in the Atrium until October 15, 2011.

AT THE WAINFLEET LIBRARY

Ongoing - **Computer workshops and one-on-one training** are available at the Wainfleet Township Public Library Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Please call the Library at 905-899-1277 to book an appointment.

Thursday, October 13 and 20 (No Story Time October 6) - **Preschool Story Time** for ages 2-5 at the Wainfleet Township Public Library. A six-week program of stories, songs, activities and crafts runs Thursdays from 10 to 10:45 a.m. No fee for the program but please call 905-899-1277 to pre-register. Each child must be accompanied by their parent/caregiver. This session's theme is Fall Fun @ your library

ONGOING

Makers Market on Friday Mornings from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Guild Hall, 72 Charlotte St. Local artisans displaying their handmade products. Something for everyone. Breakfast is available for \$4. We still have a few spaces available for the 2011 season. Call 905-834-3184 for information.



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET

NOTICE OF PASSING OF DEVELOPMENT CHARGES BYLAW

TAKE NOTICE that the council of the Township of Wainfleet passed a Development Charges Bylaw (Bylaw No BL024-2011) on the 16th day of August, 2011.

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or organization may appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board under Section 14 of the Act, in respect of the development charge bylaw, by filing with the Clerk of the Township of Wainfleet, on or before the 26th day of September, 2011, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the bylaw and the reasons supporting the objection. Appeal forms can be obtained on the Ontario Municipal Board's website - www.omb.gov.on.ca/english/OMBInformation/OMB_forms_non-planning.html.

The schedule of development charges imposed by the bylaw, which came into effect on August 17, 2011, is as follows:

SCHEDULE "B" Bylaw No. BL024-2011

Service	RESIDENTIAL				NON-RESIDENTIAL		
	Single and Semi-Detached Dwelling	Apartments - 2 Bedrooms +	Apartments - Bachelor and 1 Bedroom	Other Multiples	Special Care/Special Dwelling Units	(per ft. of Gross Floor Area)	Wind Turbine-per Unit
Municipal Wide Services							
Roads and Related	\$ 2,671	\$ 1,572	\$ 1,034	\$ 1,792	\$ 896	\$ 2.08	\$ 2,671
Fire Protection Services	770	453	298	516	258	0.59	770
Outdoor Recreation Services	622	366	241	417	209	0.22	-
Indoor Recreation Services	1,581	989	651	1,128	564	0.58	-
Library Services	493	290	191	331	165	0.17	-
Administration	477	281	185	320	160	0.32	477
Total Municipal Wide Services	6,714	3,951	2,600	4,504	2,252	3.96	3,918

No key map has been provided as the bylaw applies to all lands located within the Township of Wainfleet.

A copy of the complete bylaw is available for examination at the Township of Wainfleet offices during regular business hours (weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) excluding statutory holidays.

DATED at the Township of Wainfleet, Wainfleet, Ontario this 24th day of August, 2011.

Tanya Lamb
Clerk

■ PHOTOGRAPHY: Gagnon wins spring contest



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo
Melissa Gagnon is recognized by Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badiwey as the city's spring photo contest winner during Monday night's city council meeting.

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PROMENADE UPGRADES

PORT COLBORNE — Improvements being made to the promenade on West St., between Charlotte and Clarence Sts., are for safety reasons, says Mayor Vance Badawey.

The work is being carried out on a berm on the east side of West St.

There are big trees on the berm and we're adding decorative rock to stabilize the berm and the trees," said Badawey, noting erosion is causing roots from the trees to come out of the berm, creating a safety hazard.

"We've got a lot of kids on bikes and skateboards around there and we don't want to see anyone hurt themselves."

The mayor said the work is being done for aesthetic reasons as well. More sealing will be added in the area as well. The work, which is costing \$16,000, should take a week or so.

AEAD OF SCHEDULE

PORT COLBORNE — Work on the city's new multimillion-dollar health and wellness centre is ahead of schedule, Mayor Vance Badawey says.

Badawey says much credit must go to contractor AquilCon Construction and various crews working around the site at the Thomas A. Lawrence Sports Complex on Elizabeth St.

"The pool has been dug and the walls are going up now. We hope to have it closed in before the snow flies and get interior

work done over the winter," the mayor says.

The city is aiming for a fall 2012 opening.

ROUGH SHAPE

PORT COLBORNE — While Main St. West revitalization is all but complete, there's still work to be done.

Mayor Vance Badawey said lookouts being installed on the weir bridge have been delayed while the bridge is being stabilized in preparation for the work.

"The bridge was in rougher shape than we thought."

He said St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. is working with the city on the bridge and has contributed "quite a lot of money" to the project.

■ CONSTRUCTION: Berm being stabilized on West St.



Workers from CRL Campbell Construction and Drainage Ltd. get ready to move a large stone along the promenade on West St., between Charlotte and Clarence Sts. The \$16,000 project is to stabilize the berm along the promenade and to ensure no one trips over exposed tree roots.

DAVE HANUSCHUK Staff photo

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■ **NIAGARA IDOL:** City recognizes Crites' feat

MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Port Colborne singer Chelsea Crites, 17, was honoured with a plaque, presented by Mayor Vance Badawey on behalf of the city, for claiming the title of Niagara Idol 2011. The contest, which took place in May, was hosted by Dave & Buster's in Niagara Falls.



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■ **BACK TO SCHOOL:** High schools to host orientation days for new students

Helping 'relieve any anxiety' in the transition to Grade 9

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — It can be a difficult transition for students

from elementary to high school. Many new Grade 9 students will be doe-eyed, shy and clueless on the first day of school. But at some area high schools, making students

feel welcome before classes start is part of the program.

Welland's Notre Dame College School will be hosting an orientation day Monday from 8:30 a.m. to

12:30 p.m., featuring a few interactive activities, a visit from a motivational speaker and a walkthrough of a typical day at school.

"It's a family-style orientation to help relieve any anxiety students may have about high school," said principal Ralph DeFazio.

Expecting about 300 new registrants this year, DeFazio said he expects many confused students at first, but staff will be there to act as a support system for them.

At Port Colborne's Lakeshore Catholic High School, registration day next Wednesday — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — will be a day of familiarization for Grade 9 students. It will include a number of activities that will help students feel comfortable with their peers and surroundings.

"We start off the day with a welcome meeting where the students will get info about the school," said guidance counsellor Joanne Capretta. "The student council will divide the students into groups and go on a scavenger hunt involving things they should know about the school. They will then break

It's more than learning about the school. It's a social builder, too."

Joanne Capretta, Lakeshore Catholic High School guidance counsellor

off into different activities that act as an icebreaker (with other students)."

Senior students from previous years have told Capretta orientation days were really helpful when they were Grade 9 students themselves.

"They all had a good time. They were happy to come in and tour the school. It helped ease their anxiety," Capretta said. "They get to meet different people and make friends. It's more than learning about the school. It's a social builder, too."

Lakeshore's orientation day includes a pasta and meatball lunch prepared by the student council and will conclude with an interactive activity in the gym.

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TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR NEW ZONING BYLAW PROJECT

The Township of Wainfleet is seeking ten (10) volunteers for a Community Advisory Group. The Community Advisory Group will assist in the creation of a new Comprehensive Zoning By-law and Site Plan Control Guidelines for the Township. Members of this committee will be required to read and review studies, attend meetings, and identify and explore issues and problems as they relate to the current zoning bylaw, the new Official Plan and general development of the Township.

It is the intention of the Township that this committee be comprised of a diverse representation of the Wainfleet population (farmers, business owners, residents, contractors etc.) Interested members of the public are invited to submit their applications by September 19, 2011. Application forms can be obtained at the Township Offices or on the Township's website www.wainfleet.ca.

For further information, please contact:

Grant Mundy
Manager of Planning
31940 Hwy #3

Wainfleet, ON L0S 1V0
planning@wainfleet.ca
905-899-3463 x. 225

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■ **SICK CHILD:** By son's side in Toronto

Port family struggling by newborn's side

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Brandon Hutchinson and his wife Barb have been sleeping in their van in Toronto because they can't afford a hotel and Ronald McDonald House if full.

"Right now we need to be here with our son, it's very financially hard," Brandon Hutchinson said.

The Port Colborne family thought Aug. 19 would be a day to celebrate the arrival of their newborn son, Johnathan Jack James Hutchinson, but at 5:20 a.m. when he came into this world weighing just under seven pounds something went wrong.

Johnathan had trouble breathing because there was fluid in his lungs, and his heartbeat was erratic. Four hours after he was born he was transferred to McMaster Children's Hospital.

Johnathan's condition worsened and he was transferred to Toronto Hospital for Sick Children last week,

where his parents have been ever since.

The doctors believe a valve in Johnathan's heart was only allowing blood to flow in one direction, making blood pool on his lungs and other organs.

Johnathan underwent surgery on Thursday to open the valve properly, but doctors were unsure Friday if the operation was successful.

"It's terribly emotionally hard, we have a newborn son and we can't hold him. He was rushed away to have heart surgery, it takes a toll on you."

The couple, who have two other children in Port Colborne being cared for by Brandon Hutchinson's mother, Judy Pirson, and close friends, have not been home since Johnathan was born.

"My wife and I aren't eating. The fact that you're talking to one doctor and he says one thing and another says another, we've seen so many doctors and heard so many different stories. It's also very stressful not being able to see my other two chil-

dren at home," Brandon Hutchinson said.

The couple is pleading for the community to help them pay for accommodations, food and other expenses to stay at their son's side.

"My son is what you would call a macho boy and he broke down and started crying on the phone and that tore my heart apart,"

Pirson said about the family ordeal. "I haven't heard him cry since he was a child."

Individuals can help by going to Meridian Credit Union on Clarence St. W. in Port Colborne with a cash donation. Use account No. 4429668.

ngay@wellandtribune.ca
Twitter: @VbxyG

"It's terribly emotionally hard, we have a newborn son and we can't hold him."

Brandon Hutchinson

PORT CARES 25th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

The Reach Out Food Center
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6:00pm Reception

6:30 Guest Speaker, Liz Palmieri
Executive Director Niagara Community
Foundation

7:15 Annual General Meeting



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■ **HEALTH CARE:** Consultation meetings held

Port Colborne residents share hospital concerns

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — There is one positive change that has occurred since Niagara Health System began implementing its hospital improvement plan, said Port Colborne resident Moira Cairns.

She recalled waiting for "a very long time," during past visits to Port Colborne's emergency department. Although she wasn't happy to see the ER downgraded into an urgent care centre, she said wait times have been greatly reduced as a result.

But as a mother expecting her second child in November, Cairns is deeply concerned about plans for Welland hospital's obstetrics and pediatrics departments. Those services, and several others, are to be consolidated at the new St. Catharines hospital when it opens its doors in 2013.

Cairns was one of nearly 50 people who attended the second in a series of public consultation meetings, organized by Ontario and Niagara health coalitions, to discuss health care in Niagara.

"My main concern is one that I've been told it doesn't make any sense I think because it's the way it's going to be, but I thought I'd say what I want to say anyway," Cairns said during a meeting held at the Port Colborne legion hall.

She recalled when her two-year-old son was severely ill,

and was rushed to Welland hospital's pediatric ward with respiratory syncytial virus.

"The doctor said if he hadn't gotten in to the hospital that day, he probably wouldn't have made it," she said.

During her son's week-long stay in the hospital, she said, she had the support of friends and family, as well as her son's pediatrician and hospital staff.

"I can't imagine how different that would have been having to drive 50 minutes up to the north end of St. Catharines with the change that's coming in 2013," she said.

Cairns said she's also concerned about the loss of obstetrics. She had her first child at home with the help of a midwife, and plans to do the same thing when her second baby arrives.

But she has concerns about the potential consequences of having another child at home if the nearby obstetrics department is gone.

"If instead of a 15-minute drive to the hospital, there'd be a 50-minute drive," she said. "If there was a problem, that would raise the danger for myself and my child."

Ashlea Brockway shared Cairns' concerns.

She was at the meeting with her two young children, William and Wesley, to discuss her fears about what it will mean to her family if those departments are closed in Welland.

"With no pediatrics department in Welland anymore, I'm



ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo

Ashlea Brockway holds her son Wesley as she talks about her concerns regarding plans to move pediatrics and obstetrics out of Welland hospital in 2013. She was one of nearly 50 people at a public consultation meeting held in Port Colborne Tuesday by Niagara and Ontario health coalitions.

concerned that maybe there won't be a pediatrician in Welland anymore," Brockway said.

The loss of the nearby obstetrics department was another concern. She said having a child is "a very scary process at times."

And having to travel the extra distance to St. Catharines "will add a lot of stress," she added.

She said Welland pediatricians have been fighting to keep those services in the city.

"If the doctors are telling us

that these sites need to remain open, maybe we should take their word for it," she said.

Panelists during the meeting included Sue Hotte from the Niagara Health Coalition, Natalie Mehra from the Ontario Health Coalition, Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey, healthcare advocate Pat Schollfield and Joy Russell from the Yellow Shirt Brigade.

Each of them urged the residents who attended the meeting to make their voices heard if they hope to preserve hospital

services in their community.

Badawey said the provincial government "has been playing Russian roulette with healthcare services and it's finally catching up with them."

He urged people to share their concerns with local provincial politicians, and ask them what they intend to do to fix the problems.

Several meeting participants shared the same message.

Registered nurse Pat Johns said people need to demand accountability in the health care.

"I've been in the health care system for a long, long time. I worked at the Port Colborne hospital and seen it really just go down, down, down," she said.

"There is no accountability in the system. There is zero. There is no accountability for the minister of health."

She said the responsibility for health-care delivery ultimately lies with the Ministry of Health, but requests for improvements seem to fall on deaf ears.

"You're a voice in the wilderness," she said. "The citizens of Ontario have to hold the Ministry of Health accountable."

Port Colborne resident Brant LeClair said people across Ontario should demand that the provincial government give the ombudsman's office jurisdiction over hospital care.

And the time to do so is when there's an election, he added.

Other speakers discussed

issues ranging from home care services offered by the Community Care Access Centre, to declining standards of hospital cleaning, as well as recent hospital bed closures.

With 25 hospital beds per 1,000 residents, Mehra said Ontario has the lowest ratio of hospital beds in Canada. And citing information found on the Co-Operation for Economic Organization and Development website, she said the number of hospital beds in the province also ranks among the lowest among industrialized countries all over the world.

"That's a considerable shortfall of hospital beds," she said.

That shortfall, Hotte added, as well as the about 100% occupancy rate in the remaining hospital beds, may be contributing to the spread of infectious disease like MRSA.

"It means we have to put people in isolation," Hotte explained.

A third public consultation meeting organized by the coalitions was held last night in Niagara Falls. Additional meetings are planned for the Port Erie region hall, 130 Garrison Rd., at 1 p.m., and at the St. Catharines legion hall at 111 Church St., at 6:30 p.m., both today.

Mehra said the Ontario Health Coalition is compiling information gathered at the meetings into a report to be released in mid-September in the hope of ensuring the issue takes centre stage during the Oct. 6 election.

A rally at Queen's Park is also being scheduled for Sept. 13 at noon.

The local health coalition is organizing a bus ride from Niagara to the rally. Hotte said the trip costs \$5 each, and people can reserve their place on the bus by calling 289-271-6581.

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■ **BIKE RIDE:** Ride fundraises for MS research

At 77, Peyton keeps pedalling for his son

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Larry Peyton finished another 75-kilometre bike ride this past weekend in an effort to raise funds for multiple sclerosis research.

It's something that hits close to home for the Port Colborne man.

He rides for his son Jeff, who in 2005 was diagnosed with the disease that affects the body's central nervous system.

During last year's ride, Peyton ranked 24th on the list of top fundraisers, bringing in \$2,885. He didn't know where he stood this year.

Peyton was in his seventh Rona MS Bike Tour last weekend and raised \$2,820. But that total may change, he said.

"I've had some people who still want to donate,"

In fact, people who want to donate still have about a month or so to do.

With 656 cyclists taking part, final figures for how much was raised are not in yet.

Not all the riders, he said, did the 75-kilometre route, which is no problem for Peyton who has been riding bicycles his whole life. Some took the 40-kilometre route from Kinsbridge Park in the Chippawa area of Niagara Falls.

The route Peyton took ran from that park, down to Stevensville and Ridgeway and then back up Niagara Parkway ending at the starting point.

Because it's not race, the 77-year-old took his time riding.

"There were stations every 15 kilometres where you could get water, fruit, vegetables ... whatever you needed. There was also a van with a

bike rack following riders in case someone broke down."

At each station there were volunteers from bike shops who would perform any needed repairs to get riders back on the trail.

Asked how his son Jeff, director of buildings and facilities for the City of Vaughn, is doing, Peyton replied, "He's doing very well."

"He takes a weekly interferon injection that helps him and he has an MRI every six months to check on how he is."

Peyton said his son is holding steady and his condition hasn't worsened.

"His neurosurgeon recommended he not get CCSI treatment for now."

CCSVI stands for stands for chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency and the controversial surgery can help with blockages and narrowing of some of the

most important veins that drain the blood from the brain (and rest of the central nervous system) back to the heart.

MS, Peyton and his wife

Eleanor said, does not run on either side of the family. They both checked when their son was diagnosed.

Peyton said he'll keep on taking part in the ride for as

long as he can and hopes a cure is found for the disease.

People still wishing to contact a donation can contact him directly at 905-834-6205.



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